

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/Russia

SUBJECT Soviet Use of Freies Deutschland Members

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

EXACT COPY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

1. Obermüller was to be trained for the post of organizer of sports for the yet-to-be-organized Deutsche Freiheitspartei (which might also have received the name of Deutsche Demokratische or Deutsche Republikanische Freiheitspartei) in the Russian Zone. Later, as Ministerialdirigent, he was to take a position in the Ministry of Health which would have been similar in nature to that of the Nazi Reichsportführer. However, these plans were not carried out because Moscow considered the Volkskongress movement and its drive for a "Unity Party" a better instrument to win the loyalty of the German masses.
2. The major role in the projected Freiheitspartei, as well as in the materializing Volkskongress movement, is to be played by Freies Deutschland members. At present Obermüller himself, on orders from Moscow, has been provided a position as a journalist on the Russian-licensed Nachtextexpress by the SMA.
3. the political situation in the Russian Zone is at the moment extremely confused. The new course of Soviet German policy--presumably guided by Zhdanov and directed essentially to the creation of a "rump" Germany which would be recognized as a sovereign state by the USSR--has met with strong opposition from the SMA. The opposition lies in the conviction of the Politburo in Moscow that the German masses can be captured only by an appeal to old nationalist instincts, most conspicuously served by the Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland, while the SMA does not care to surrender the Marxist course and the fostering of SED interests. the situation has now become so critical that a decision, which may be a temporary one, to follow one course or the other, cannot be avoided. the developments in the "Wirtschaftskommission" and the resulting chaos on the highest German administrative levels in the Russian Zone reveal the strength but not final confirmation of the Zhdanov policy. The background of this confusion is to be found definitely in the fact that the SED, supported by the SMA, wanted to create an instrument of power for itself in the Wirtschaftskommission, while the Politburo wanted to staff the new organization with previously selected Nationalkomitee members. The result of this power-

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hungry personnel policy of the SED was the immediate interference by the Moscow Foreign Office and a sharp reprimand to Marshal Sokolovski. In spite of this Foreign Office attitude, an energetic execution of the Politburo policy, as planned, would expose the USSR to the opposition of the western powers, which is to be avoided, and which was not foreseen in the planning of last year.

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5. Those members of the Nationalkomite who are at present working in the Russian Zone are obliged to submit a monthly report on the morale of the population and especially, on the successes and failures of the SED.

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there are many members of the Nationalkomite Freies Deutschland in the Justice Administration. There is no lateral liaison among them, and they do not know the future missions the others may have to fulfill. Instructions of a political nature come in every instance from Berlin. The members of the Nationalkomite are at present a political strength which falls outside the scope of SMA. Relations with SED, which were very close up to the end of 1947, with the presentation of a common political course, have become extremely strained at the moment because the higher officials of the SED see political competitors in the members of the Nationalkomite Freies Deutschland.

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